When it comes to learning, the human mind can take in nearly something completely new every day. Learning refers to the experience that a human has where they hear some new information that they take in. Where does the majority of this learning happening? Many people answer with school. But I think learning happens a different way. I think it happens through the life and the surroundings a person experiences everyday. I think that if you can include kids in a more natural way with education. You would have a much more positive outcome. In this paper, I'm going to show you many different professional theories on what they think education is. By the end, I will hope that you know what my opinion on what education is and what it should be. Its a key part of everyday life and I think it needs to be addressed what the current state of it is compared to what people think it is.

Malcolm X will always be a pivotal man in american history. Particularly, during the civil rights movement of the sixties, where he rallied the african american people to lead to there true freedom that they demanded during that time. What many people didn't know about Malcolm X was his will and perseverance to learn and teach himself. I read the journal that Malcolm X made called “Learning to read”. In this journal he describes his life in jail that he had to spend. While he was there, he had access to books in which he at the time was illiterate, and he took the initiative. He had the inspiration to teach himself through nothing that he had in prison beside the books that they could provide him; And with that, he taught himself how to read. This is really interesting that one person, with nothing but the clothes on his back and books, can teach himself how to read with the right amount of confidence and courage. When i read this i was amazed at how one person can teach themselves like this. This proves a theory that when
it comes to learning, it is more about what the person who needs to learn is willing to put in, rather than for the person that is teaching him. (p. 3) People who need to learn themselves are the biggest key.

After reading what he had written that opened up a whole new horizon for me on how students in school learn and strive in school. This led me to a reading that keys itself on being engaged when it comes learning in a classroom setting. The journal known as “engaged Pedagogy” written by Bell Hooks, the journal describes just that. The author goes on to say that the teacher student relationship in the classroom is one of the major keys for the student to want to learn. He goes on to say that at this point in time there has never been a bigger crisis of students not wanting to learn, and teachers not wanting to teach. (Hooks p. 14) His theory then goes on to become that in order for students to want to learn, teachers need to make relationships with there students and want them to learn and gain knowledge from them. He thinks in order to have success in the classroom, the teacher must grow along with the students. This was a very intriguing theory for me, but I have to say its very valid. His opinion on what education is a two way street within the classroom. That the teacher must grow along with the student for success. A very interesting concept that makes sense. Because if teachers aren't inspired to teach, then why should students be inspired learn? His concept is very complex and intelligent.

So even though learning when it comes to a person depends on how much you put into it, the surrounding people who are apart of your learning can effect it as well. So the question is what can a person do to inspire themselves? Well i watched a video that describes simple things a student can do to help them learn and do better in school. I recently came across a professional ted talk by a women named Amy Cuddy, in her talk called “body language”. Using scientific evidence, she goes on to make a point that by doing something as simple as changing your body language, you can change the way you learn and will to learn. She in her theory thinks that being a successful learning student, you must have confidence. By using that as her
base, she ran an experiment with the results saying that people who sat in stances more spread out or “power stances” did better in their hypothetical interview to people who were in a smaller scrunched position. She expands beyond just simple little remedies and says that if you feel that you should not be there, or your not smart enough, then you will not do well. But if you believe tat you are smart enough to succeed, even if there are signs that say otherwise, than you still can succeed in learning in the classroom. I really like this theory and I think it has a strong message on her theory of education. She believes in the theory that if you think you can do it and succeed in school, than with the right steps and mental strength you will.

Going back to what I said earlier about people being able to learn depending on how much they put in, this next article puts a specific classroom sense to that theory. But the difference here, is that the author throws a little twist on the theory as well. He thinks that not only do students need to go out and grab their education, but to also challenge your brain doing so. The article “claiming an education” by Rich is very explicit and to the point on his theory which i found very interesting. He thinks that if you just go through the motions, you really wont get any knowledge that is really concrete.(rich p. 11) He thinks you must go out and push your way to becoming the student you want to. That was a very interesting theory of education that he states, but has just as much credibility as my other sources.

The last source I viewed was a video made by Sir Robinson which i found to be the most conceptual out of the 5. The actual video is a visual representation through drawings that correspond with what he is saying. But what he goes over in his video is on a much larger scale then my other sources. He begins to talk about that structured style of classrooms and schools are the reason why education is failing. He uses examples such as not grouping kids based on age but on academic caliber, along with other theories similar to that. He thinks that it has nothing to do with the people, but the structure in which they were raised in. He thinks education needs to change from the base. I found this to be very deep and also very true.
All of these sources are very legitimate and have much reason to back them up. Each one has a very distinct opinion on where education is going. I thoroughly read and watched each one of these readings to come up with a theory of my own. I believe that the VERY base thing that is the true number one key to the meaning of education is the student. If you want to be able to learn and get a good education it starts with you. In order for education to be there, you must want it. You must be able to have the confidence and courage to strive to claim your education. Not only that but it means that you also strive to teach yourself as well. You cant let it rely on just what you learn in the classroom, you have to go beyond that. That is truly the first key to my theory of education

The next key to education in my book, comes by the mentors, the teachers. I say mentors because thats what they should be labeled as. Yes, they are there to teach the kids, but they shouldn't just be teaching kids. Making a relationship with your students go a much longer way than teaching them the most important things of the course. When you make a relationship with your students, they begin to see you as a person trying to help them, then they are willing to learn all at once. But when they just see you as someone who just wants to go through the motions, then they will want to do the same. You need to make teachers people that students look up to, and make them engage with their students in a manor where they are teaching the material, along with also establishing a friendship. This is more important then people think.

The last thing that I think education should change in, is it's structure. Now some of the ideas given by Sir Robinson were a bit far fetched and unrealistic, but I still agree with him that something needs to change within the system itself. The way it is now, education has only become a mandatory sequence of events that every person has to go through in their lifetime. That is not what it should be, but sadly that is what it has become. People should be getting an education to expand their minds and have it become a great journey through life for them.
So now the question remains, how can we possibly implement this into the actual education? Well, I think to start we need to change the reputation of what getting an education is. The world today has made its way to make education have such a negative connotation, that students go into education with these presumptuous attitudes toward education that make them go into it not wanting to learn. This needs to change before anything else happens. Secondly, teachers need to become more than what their occupation describes. They need to be required to implement relationships with each of their students in order to make the students want to learn. With these changes in real time, I believe education can make a revolution in a positive way.

Bibliography:


